

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAJ-01 BIB-01 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /101 W

----- 116984

R 131416Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7539

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA

CNO WASHDC//OP-614

DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII

OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PK XA XH UR XF US CH

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - AUGUST 13

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF SOVIET PRESS:

-- A PRAVDA COMMENTARY FOCUSES AGAIN ON THE RECORD U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET AND BLAMES U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS FOR FUELING INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING. AND THE PRESS REPLAYS DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. MOTIVES IN OPPOSING FRENCH-PAK NUCLEAR DEAL.

-- PERIPATETIC EAST EUROPEAN LEADERS GOT SHORT NOTES ON THEIR VISITS IN USSR, ZHIVKOV IN SEVASTOPOL, CEAUSESCU IN GEORGIA, AND VACATIONING POLISH DEFENSE MINISTER JARUZELSKI MET SOVIET DEFMIN USTINOV ON AUGUST 11. TASS REPORTS CEAUSESCU'S DEPARTURE FROM USSR.

-- LEBANESE COVERAGE IN CENTRAL PRESS REFLECTS INTENSIFIED FIGHTING AROUND TAL ZAATAR, BUT DOES NOT REPORT THE CAMP'S FALL. PRAVDA AND KZ CONCLUDE THEIR COVERAGE WITH A SHARPLY WORDED TASS BEIRUT ITEM ON ISRAELI BLOCKADE OF SOUTHERN LEBANESE COAST AND SEIZURE OF VESSELS IN "NEUTRAL WATERS".

-- PRAVDA HAS ARTICLE ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS ON CYPRUS BY V. DROBKOV, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD BY AKEL GENERAL SECRETARY PAPAIONNU THAT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO OVERESTIMATE SIGNIFICANCES OF THESE ELECTIONS FOR FATE OF CYPRUS."

-- THE "NEW WAVE OF TERROR AND DESTRUCTION IN ULSTER"
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GETS ONE OF ITS RELATIVELY INFREQUENT TREATMENTS IN IZVESTIYA'S INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY COLUMN BY THAT PAPER'S LONDON CORRESPONDANT, O. VASIL' YEV, WHO BLAMES COLONIALIST POLICIES OF BRITISH AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC REGIME OF UNIONIST-PROTESTANTS FOR THE CONTINUING CRISIS.

-- PRAVDA REPORTS SWAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA'S AUGUST 12 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE REJECTED S. AFRICAN

MANEUVERS TO SET UP SEVERAL "PSEUDO-GOVERNMENTAL BANTUSTANS" IN NAMIBIA, SAID ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS TO ACHIEVE GOAL OF FREE AND FLOURISHING NAMIBIA WAS ARMED STRUGGLE AND PRAISED SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO SWAPO.

-- PRAVDA NOTES AWARD TO FIDEL CASTRO OF ORDER OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION ON OCCASION OF HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY, AND BREZHNEV LETTER TO HIM, AND HAS HAGIOGRAPHIC ARTICLE ON CASTRO'S REVOLUTIONARY CAREER. THE EVENING TV NEWS ALSO FEATURED THE CASTRO BIRTHDAY AND AWARD.

-- A KZ COMMENTARY BERATES CHINA IN STANDARD TERMS FOR TRYING FROM THE TRUE "SOCIALIST" PATH SINCE 1959, AND FOR CONSORTING WITH UNPRINCIPLED REACTIONARIES.

2. IN U.S. COVERAGE:

-- TOMAS KOLESNECHENKO IN PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN DISCUSSES FY 1977 "RECORD" DEFENSE BUDGET OF \$113 BILLION. EVEN THOUGH NO ONE THREATENS THE U.S., HE SAYS, THE PENTAGON CONTINUES TO BUILD NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS, TRIDENT, CRUISE MISSILES, AND MINUTEMEN. BESIDES THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE FORCES HOSTILE TO DETENTE, KOLESNECHENKO BLAMES THE "COMPLEX INTERNAL SITUATION WHICH EXISTS NOW IN AMERICA", INCLUDING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, FOR THE HUGE EXPENDITURES ON ARMAMENTS.

-- NATO AND U.S. GET TAKEN TO TASK IN KZ BY B. BEGISHEV FOR PLAYING THE ROLE OF "GENDARME" IN THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ITALY, PORTUGAL AND FRANCE IN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THOSE COUNTRIES. GENERAL HAIG IS QUOTED AS SAYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING NATO TODAY IS THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF MARXISTS IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES.

-- KZ REPORTS ON NYT STORY ON ARMS TRADE WHICH SAYS U.S. IS SELLING MORE ARMS ABROAD THEN ALL OTHER COUNTRIES OF WORLD COMBINED.

-- IZVESTIYA ARTICLE REPLAYS CRITICAL REACTIONS TO U.S. TACTICS ON FRENCH-PAK NUCLEAR DEAL AND QUOTES THE FRENCH PRESS THAT THE REAL U.S. MOTIVE IS COMMERCIAL, AS SHOWN BY ITS OWN DEAL WITH IRAN. STORY CLAIMS FRENCH PRESS SEES DISPUTE IN TERMS OF U.S.-FRENCH ECONOMIC AND TRADE RIVALRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW12840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0438
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760856/aaaabwfn.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - AUGUST 13
TAGS: PFOR, PK, XA, XH, UR, XF, US, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006